

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Is the wool clip stored in a dry place?

Banish the scrub sire for good and all.

Once again, don't use binder twine for tying the fleece.

Scabby potatoes will likely produce after their kind unless treated with formalin.

If half the reports are true the Dual Monarchy is not a very pleasant ally for Germany.

Make all the pork possible on grass. It will save the grain and mean a larger profit.

Milk and its products are necessary foods. Don't substitute them with cheaper imitations.

Don't neglect to sow a field of rape. It will make excellent feed for sheep or hogs in the autumn. Even cattle will do well on it.

The amount of seed corn required per acre this spring will depend on the percentage of germination. Make the test; don't guess.

The growing shortage of labor on the farm increases the necessity for more co-operation and exchange of work between farmers.

The third Liberty Loan in the United States has been heavily over-subscribed. Every one is now willing to pay to see the Kaiser licked.

The man who buys an automobile under the new tax regulations is helping to win the war, and the more expensive the car the more he helps.

Are you keeping up with the Orders of the Food Control Board? One has to have a good memory or some Order might be violated unintentionally.

Canada's national debt is growing rapidly, and our obligations after the war is over will necessitate enormous production. In this the farm will play a leading role.

Since icing is now banished from the cake perhaps, we can get more good, old-fashioned ginger bread, which has never been excelled by the product of any fancy recipe.

Australia should not suffer any food shortage with five million tons of wheat stored awaiting bottoms now being built in America. Still grain production is being urged there.

It is time that non-essential industries were curtailed, especially when the most essential industry of all is being handicapped to an alarming extent through the lack of hands to do the work.

The recent advanced prices paid for butcher cattle have not been more than sufficient to allow the feeder, who put them in last fall at a long price, to clear himself and have something to show for his winter's work.

Sunday labor seems to be under discussion again. The question seemingly will not down. Outside of efforts necessary to save a crop nothing apparently can be gained by working seven days a week instead of six. A day on the farm is a real day, and Sunday should afford an opportunity for a real rest.

What Only Butter-fat Can Do.

Now that the word "substitute" has become so popularized and people are replacing those foods needed Overseas with perishable articles of diet, we should take care that a great mistake is not made, an important industry handicapped and the vigor of the entire race impaired. We can substitute a great deal, that is true, and by careful conservation we can add to the volume of beef and bacon which we have to spare; but in our enthusiasm there is a danger of saving that which it is unnecessary to save and going far enough to injure health and lessen the chances of our children developing into men and women equal to their forebears. Scientists have come to the conclusion that certain foods may contain all the necessary ingredients of a suitable diet so far as the demands for protein, starches, sugars, fats, etc., are concerned, and yet lack the very elements essential to life. According to Dr. E. V. McCollum, of John Hopkins University, there are only two foods upon which one can depend to supply these life-sustaining parts; they are called "protective foods" because they make good the dietary deficiencies of the long list of other articles commonly used. These protective foods are: "first of all, milk; that is the best one there is. The second best is the leaf of the plant." In an interesting address before the National Dairy Conference of the United States, Dr. McCollum pointed out that some peoples, such as the Oriental races, neglected dairy products and resorted largely to the leaves of plants as a protective food. In comparison with some European races and inhabitants of the western world the Orientals, he said, were inferior, and there was ample proof that nations which used milk and milk products freely were ever at the front in the matter of human achievement in any field of activity. Dr. McCollum also asserted that the infant mortality in the non-milk-consuming countries was higher than in even the worst part of the United States. Furthermore, vegetable fats do not function the same as butter-fat, nor can they in any way replace it as one of the protective foods.

In the face of these unchallenged facts the blunder should not be made of substituting a great national product, such as butter, with a composition of vegetable and animal fats which, while it may satisfy the eye and the taste, cannot function in the upbuilding of a sturdy race, free from disease. Milk and its products make good the dietary deficiencies in whatever kinds of food we care to eat, and products of the dairy should be widely used during this period of substitution and conservation.

Getting Acquainted Abroad.

Owing to the modest manner of Canadians and our methods of marketing, the products of this country are not known abroad as well as they should be. We have been too quiet and have not blown our own horn loud enough to be heard in the din of national advertising. This is particularly true in regard to our live stock and farm products. Dr. Issa Tanimura, Commissioner of Live Stock for the Japanese Government, when making a tour recently through Canada, told a representative of this paper that choice Canadian products are used in Japan, but we do not get the credit for them. As an instance of this he said that the Japanese were under the impression that Canadian breeders went to the United States for their good sheep, but he had found, upon thorough inspection, that the reverse was true. Dr. Tanimura was particularly interested in this class of live stock, and his acknowledgement of the facts was gratifying indeed. In regard to our wheat he also remarked that extra good flour had been purchased in his country, and the buyers were under the impression all the time that it originated in the United States, when in fact it was made from the choice product of the Canadian Prairie. The Commissioner suggested that mutual benefit to both countries would accrue if Canada adver-

tised herself more in Japan, and made known the good qualities of our live stock, for such is required there to replenish and improve the herds and flocks they already have. What is true in Japan must be true, to a greater or less extent, in other commonwealths. We are known far enough but not well enough. Through the Department of Trade and Commerce, Canadian manufactured articles have been heralded abroad, which is good business, since it enlarges the market and thus builds up the industries at home. The Canadian National Live Stock Council might impress upon the Government the necessity of a similar policy in regard to our live stock, and advise them in any action they might see fit to take. The time is quickly coming when Canada will be in a position to fill large orders for good stuff; and the earlier the demand comes the sooner will we be prepared to supply it. We must look ahead in matters pertaining to the development of agriculture in this Dominion, for we have only touched the fringe of our possibilities and a great future lies before.

Our Imperative Duty.

The financial transactions of the nations are bewildering to the lay mind, and even experts must find the maze of figures, with which they deal, more or less perplexing. However, one phase of this colossal scheme of finance is plain to all Canadians, namely, that the country must have revenue and some form of credit must be advanced to Britain in order that trade may not suffer. England is now a borrowing instead of a loaning nation, but when our cheese, our wheat, or our manufactured articles go to the Allies they must be settled for in some way or the producer would soon be without funds with which to "Carry on." According to the recent Budget, exports to Great Britain last year amounted to about \$850,000,000, while our imports rose to only \$81,000,000 from that source. We had at the same time an unfavorable trade balance with the United States approximating \$350,000,000, and in normal times this would be easily offset by the moneys receivable from Great Britain. That procedure is now changed, and since July last Britain has been obliged to secure dollar credits for her purchases in Canada, in order that trade might go on. It is manifest that commercial disaster would follow any failure on the part of the Dominion to advance credits to our European Allies, or to sell to them on the strength of credits advanced by the neighboring Republic. The Canadian Government has made advances to Great Britain of \$25,000,000 per month; the Canadian banks have made advances to the British Government totalling \$200,000,000, on the security of Imperial Treasury Bills, and the Government of the United States has established credits for British purposes in this country. All this is necessary in order that industries may continue and agricultural products move to those markets which constitute the natural outlet for the results of our labor. The Acting Minister of Finance emphasized these facts when presenting the Budget, but it was furthermore made plain that after all sources of revenue are exhausted there will probably be a balance of some \$280,000,000 which must be raised to carry on the war and the business of the current year. There is only one way left whereby this vast amount of money can be gathered together for public use, and that is through the sale of Victory Bonds, which simply means that the people must lend the money to the Government. In this regard Mr. Maclean said: "I want to make it clear that if we are to continue our part in the war and maintain our overseas trade at its present dimensions, the people of Canada must loan to the Government the money to accomplish that end. That is, they must, year after year, purchase Victory Bonds."

This part of the perplexing conditions of finance is evident to even the uninitiated, for without funds our Governments would be as helpless as an army without